



Advisory Actions 2000

Department of General Services
Office of Public School Construction

February 23, 2000 - Issue 03
State Allocation Board Meeting

Executive Corner

The Office of Public School Construction (OPSC) is pleased to announce the publication of the School Facility Program (SFP) Guidebook to assist school districts in applying for and obtaining "grant" funds for the new construction and modernization of schools under the provisions of the Leroy F. Greene School Facilities Act of 1998. It is a simplified guide providing an overview of how a district or county superintendent of schools becomes eligible and applies for State funding.



The new SFP Guidebook is now available on the OPSC Web site at www.dgs.ca.gov/opsc.

We encourage you to share this information with all your school facilities representatives and board members, along with any comments or questions you may have regarding its content.

Sincerely,

Luisa M. Park
Interim Executive Officer
Office of Public School Construction

SFP Time Limits on Apportionment

The State Allocation Board (SAB) began allocating Proposition 1A funds in January 1999 for new construction and modernization SFP projects. Once funds are allocated under the SFP, the district has 18 months to certify its matching share is available and that at least 50 percent of the project is under contract for the construction or modernization of the facility. This certification is made on the *Fund Release Authorization*, (Form SAB 50-05). Please be reminded that if your district cannot make this certification, the apportionment for the project is automatically rescinded without further action by the SAB. For specific information regarding this certification, please contact Della Casey, OPSC Fiscal Team, at della.casey@dgs.ca.gov or (916) 445-3269

Expediting School Construction in Small School Districts

The OPSC and the Small School Districts Association, in cooperation with the Division of the State Architect (DSA), the California Department of Education (CDE), and the Coalition for Adequate School Housing (C.A.S.H.) co-sponsored a statewide workshop for small school district and county offices. The workshop was held on March 6th and 7th, 2000 in Sacramento.

Small school districts in California, defined as districts which have an enrollment of 2,500 students or less, account for over 60 percent of California's approximate 1,000 districts. Although these districts have many of the same school facility needs as larger districts, they are often at a disadvantage because of limited staff, geographical isolation, and small budgets. This workshop provided the administration staff of small school districts with current information about State law and regulations governing the construction and funding of new classrooms and the modernization of older facilities. For further information about this program, please contact Steve Paul at (916) 322-1838.

Prototype School Designs

In May of 1999, the State Allocation Board approved the OPSC proposal to create a catalogue of school plans. The catalogue is now available on the internet and will contain a thumb nail sketch of selected schools and school facility components built in California in the last two years that are already approved by the DSA and the CDE. A prototype of the Web site to accomplish this task has been developed and can be found at www.opsc.dgs.ca.gov/planupload/.

Architects and building manufacturers are invited to participate by submitting information about their projects. A submittal guide can be found at the above Web address that details the specific submittal requirements. The information posted for each school include a site plan, floor plan, three or four photographs, and a summary of vital information about the school including the cost of construction, capacity and square footage. The OPSC looks forward to receiving submittals to further develop this comprehensive Web site database and solicit district support in encouraging client architects to participate.

Cost Containment Guidelines

The governing law of the SFP provides for the SAB to adopt guidelines for use by districts to achieve measurable reductions in the costs of school facilities construction. The proposed cost containment guidebook has been developed based on a series of statewide workshops and represents a “cookbook” of ideas designed to offer more cost effective means to provide school facilities. It shall be presented as an information item at the March 2000 SAB meeting and for approval and adoption at the April 2000 SAB meeting.

Status of Funds

Program	Funds Available as of 1/26/00	Apportionments	Balance Available
Proposition 1A			
New Construction	\$309.4	\$37.6	\$271.8
Modernization	\$7.7	-0-	7.7
Hardship	\$141.4	9.4	132.0
Class Size Reduction	\$241.6	-0-	241.6
SUBTOTAL	\$700.1	\$47.0	\$653.1
Priority Bond Funds			
Contingency Reserves	\$52.2	\$2.1	\$54.3
Northridge Earthquake	\$1.8	-0-	1.8
SUBTOTAL	\$54.0	\$2.1	\$56.1
GRAND TOTAL	\$754.1	\$44.9	\$709.2

Note: The SAB funded \$100,000 for Deferred Maintenance Program critical hardship projects.

Construction Cost Indices

Lease Purchase Program Construction Cost Indices for February 2000	
B	1.38
D	1.38
F & E	1.37
HSI	5.25

Public Comment Period for Proposed Regulations - (AB695, AB387 and other Legislation)

The 45-day public comment period commenced on February 25, 2000 for the proposed SFP Regulations adopted by the SAB on January 26, 2000. Written comments must be received by the OPSC no later than April 10, 2000, at 5:00 p.m. For further information regarding the public comment period, please refer to the February 25, 2000 Notice of Proposed Regulatory Action that was previously sent to all districts and county superintendents of schools. For specific information regarding the Notice of Proposed Regulatory Action, please contact Lisa Jones, Regulations Coordinator, at lisa.jones@dgs.ca.gov or (916) 322-1043.

Follow up to SAB Regulation Adoption for New Legislation

In response to testimony, the SAB requested that the OPSC meet with the SAB Implementation Committee relating to a limit on oversight fees charged by the Department of Toxic Substances Control in Assembly Bill (AB) 387. This meeting did occur and in light of correspondence from the bill’s author supporting the SAB’s regulations as adopted on January 26, 2000, the Committee did not recommend any further changes regarding this particular issue.

SFP Priority Points

As directed by the SAB at its January 2000 meeting, the OPSC has drafted regulations relating to AB 562 and the issue of priority points. A final discussion regarding the regulation language is scheduled for the March 10, 2000 SAB Implementation Committee meeting with the intention of presenting a final recommendation to the SAB on March 22, 2000.

Copies of the applicable SAB actions and additional information can be located on the OPSC Web site at www.dgs.ca.gov/opsc. Should you have questions or need any additional information regarding the contents of this advisory, please contact your project manager.



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